

Washington State Patrol Press Release

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Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit Open House

In 1984 the Washington State Legislature mandated the Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit to be established in the Washington State Patrol. Pursuant to RCW 68.50.320 and 68.50.330 the unit became operational in November 1984.

In the 1985 Legislative Session Missing Children Clearinghouse was established to aid law enforcement in their investigations and works with the left-behind parents, pursuant to Chapter 13.60 RCW. On October 16, 1985 the Washington State Patrol (WSP), Missing Children Clearinghouse began the process of assisting law enforcement and families in locating missing children. Through investigative assistance they have located children across the country and around the world.

In 2006, the Washington State Legislature passed Second Substitute House Bill 2805. This bill amended RCW 68.50.320 which basically states law enforcement shall collect dentals and DNA on persons missing for more than thirty days.

In order to better serve law enforcement and the public, the Washington State Patrol combined the resources of the Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit and the Missing Children Clearinghouse into one unit, the Missing & Unidentified Persons Unit. This change streamlines our processes to allow us to provide better services to our public safety partners and the citizens of Washington State.

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